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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 15 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

For the fourth time in the past month, I write to draw your attention to the continuous rocket fire emanating from the Gaza Strip.

Today two long-range rockets were fired from Gaza into a Kibbutz in southern Israel in the area of Sha'ar Hanegev. One rocket struck and completely destroyed a farm building, exploding in close proximity to a kindergarten classroom. These attacks follow a significant escalation of rocket fire over the past two months, including another rocket attack in the area of Sha'ar Hanegev just two days ago. Since the beginning of October, terrorists in Gaza have launched more than 70 rockets and mortars into the major cities, towns and communities of southern Israel, deliberately targeting civilians in attack after attack.

Nearly every day, we witness new scenes of destruction. Israeli men, women and children continue to be killed and injured. Shrapnel flies into homes, schools and playgrounds. Fires rage in the streets. Yet, the Security Council still has not uttered a single syllable of condemnation against these attacks.

The Security Council's silence in the face of the constant terrorism emanating from Gaza speaks volumes. Although the Council remains deaf to the roar of rockets echoing from Gaza, not a moment goes by when the people of Israel do not live with the fear of terrorism hanging over their heads.

For farmers tilling their fields, for men and women travelling to work, for children riding the bus to school, the threat of rocket fire is ever present. The people of Israel hope for a brighter future and the Government of Israel continues to extend its hand in peace, but we look to our south and see no doves of peace flying out of Gaza, just Grad rockets and long-range missiles.

These attacks represent a flagrant violation of international law — and Israel will continue to hold the Hamas terrorist organization fully responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza, where it remains in de facto control.

To avoid a further escalation, the Security Council and the international community must take immediate action, condemning these attacks unequivocally. All responsible members of the international community have a duty to speak with a common voice and act with a common purpose against the continuous terrorism emanating from the Gaza Strip.

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No people should be expected to live under such a spectre of violence. No Government should be expected to stand idle in the face of continued acts of terror directed at its citizens. Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative